

A METHOD OF PRODUCING INSULATED TEXTILE FABRIC**Field of the Invention**

5 This invention relates to insulated textile fabrics and methods of making the same.

Background of the Invention

Some countries may experience harsh winter conditions whereby the temperature of open areas can fall as low as -30°C. While buildings are equipped 10 with internal heating, the temperature in the open areas can be unbearable and necessitates the need of winter clothing with good insulation. Some buildings of the developing countries are not equipped with such internal heating and will have to depend solely on winter clothing or blankets to provide warmth to the residents of the buildings. Although wool is commonly used for as clothing insulation material, some 15 citizens of the developing countries that experience such harsh winters cannot afford to purchase such materials. Thus, in the open, they are left to expose themselves to such harsh weathers without any proper insulating clothing which can be detrimental to their health and in some circumstances may even cause death.

20 Summary of the Invention

While polymers of different types have been used and patented for multifaceted applications such as water proofing using polyurethane, resin reinforcement of fabrics, textile fabric composites for belts, and even cold vulcanised rubber sheets for hospitals, the object of the present invention is to provide textile 25 fabrics for the manufacture of apparels with good insulation against cold temperatures and a method of producing such insulated textile fabrics. Such textile fabrics can be used to produce any kind of apparel such as winter clothing, cloaks, shawls, mittens, dresses, coat and even blankets that can be used in cold weather conditions or where warmth is required.

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According to the invention, sulphur vulcanizable elastomers in latex form are used as the insulating material and are either sprayed on the textile fabric or the textile

fabric is dipped in the sulphur vulcanizable elastomers. The coated textile fabric is then subjected to drying and vulcanisation to provide a layer of elastomer insulation on the textile fabric. The insulated textile fabric is then converted into apparels for use in cold weather conditions or where warmth is required. This method permits low 5 cost production of insulated textile fabrics and hence affordable insulated apparels can be made available for the developing countries. Such insulated textile fabric can also be advantageously used by the affluent sectors depending on the cost of fabrics used.

Detailed description of the invention

10 The term textile fabric as used herein includes and is not limited to knitted articles, threads, yarns, ropes, fibrous articles, natural or synthetic fibres, silks, cotton, satin and are not limited to any form of textile material.

15 For the purpose of this invention, references to apparels relate to any kind of clothing, socks, headgear and coverings for human use.

20 Sulphur vulcanizable elastomer in the latex form; either prevulcanized latex or compounded latex, both natural and synthetic including nitrile, styrene butadiene rubber (SBR), or neoprene latex and or modifications thereof, is used in producing the insulating textile fabric. One embodiment of producing the insulating textile fabric is to spray the sulphur vulcanizable elastomer on both sides of the textile fabric and placed in a hot chamber for drying and vulcanisation. The textile fabric is 25 impregnated with a layer of vulcanised elastomer which is the insulation layer at the end of the vulcanisation. A second embodiment of producing the insulating textile fabric is to dip the textile fabric into the sulphur vulcanizable elastomer in a uniform manner. The dipped textile fabric is then placed in a hot chamber for drying and vulcanisation. A layer of insulation is impregnated on the surface of the textile fabric at the end of the vulcanisation. The thickness of the insulating layer can be varied by 30 controlling the amount of elastomer latex incorporated into the textile fabric, thereby varying the amount of insulation on the textile fabric for use in different weather conditions. The temperature in the hot chamber and the drying time varies according

to the thickness of the vulcanizable elastomer and is adjusted accordingly to avoid any form of ageing or oxidation of the elastomer.

When the textile fabric is suitably impregnated with the sulphur vulcanizable 5 latex, dried and vulcanised, it can then be converted into apparels for use in cold weather conditions or where warmth is required. The insulated textile fabric may also be encased in a suitable fabric before conversion to apparels to avoid direct contact of the elastomer with the skin.

10 It will be apparent to a person skilled in the art that the method and its specific embodiments may be varied or modified without departing from the methods or principles of working herein. These and other such embodiments not specifically determined herein are not to be considered as departures from the present invention and shall be considered as falling within the letter and spirit of the following claims.